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LEMON SQUASH
LITHIA WATER
PHOSPHORIC CHAMPAGNE
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SODA WATER
TONIC WATER.

In the manufacture of these Waters the pure ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and skill are exercised throughout. The Water used is subjected to a perfect system of filtration, daily examinations, and periodically to searching chemical analysis; so that absolute purity and safety are guaranteed.

FOR COAST PORTS

Waters are packed and placed on Board at Hongkong Prices and the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties when received irgend order.

SUMMER BEVERAGES.

FRUIT CORDIALS.—Raspberry, Strawberry, Lime, Damson, Black Currant, Red Currant, Pineapple, Orange, Plum, Marmalade, Cherry, and Gooseberry.

FRUIT JUICES.—Lemon, Lime, Juice, Raspberry, Strawberry, &c.

Prepared from genuine fruit Juices imported by ourselves, they contain the full flavour of the sound ripe fruit; mixed with plain or Aerated Water, they make delightful Summer Drinks.

AGENTS FOR
MONTSERRAT, LIME JUICE
AND CORDIAL.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

PORTS,
SHERRIES,
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LIQUEURS.
A large selection of choice Old Brandy.

TOBACCO.
CIGARS AND CIGARETTES.

A complete stock of all the best and most popular Brands.

VIN DE QUINQUINA.

A Medicinal Wine agreeable to the taste containing the valuable properties of Cinchona Bark combined with a choice Brand of Red Wine.

Its powerful astringent qualities tend to ward off attacks of malarial fever, and to all convalescents it acts as a quick restorative and appetizer.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.
Hongkong, 22nd July, 1893.

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NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to the news columns shall be addressed to the Editor.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous signature or communication that would identify the author will be accepted.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited.

Teleggraphic Address: *Press*. Telephone No. 12.

Oct. Daily Press

HONGKONG, AUGUST 5TH, 1893.

The despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor in reply to the memorials of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce with reference to the refusal of Vice-Admiral Sir FREDERICK RICHARDS to send one of Her Majesty's ships to look for the missing steamer *Somelch Phra Nang*, though palpably intended as a snub, is no justification of the act. The Admiralty consider that the Chamber of Commerce have "no valid ground of complaint against the Vice-Admiral." This is a mere expression of opinion, given to shield Sir FREDERICK RICHARDS from the just consequences of his neglect. It is added that "a careful perusal of the papers submitted" does not lead Her Majesty's Government to "think that the Vice-Admiral's discretion was not soundly exercised in the case in question." We are sorry for Her Majesty's subjects. But this expression of opinion, as we remarked before, is no justification of the gallant Admiral. As the Secretary of State remarks, presumably as mouthpiece of the Admiralty, "the Commander-in-chief of the Naval Forces on station must be left to judge of what is practicable on any occasion on which the assistance of Her Majesty's ships is sought for;" the pity of it is that the Admiralty should feel bound to support an officer when his judgment has led him astray or his indifference has resulted in manifest neglect of duty. Would the same uncompromising support, without any attempt at justification, have been accorded to a subordinate whose influence at the Admiralty was nil? Would the commander of a gunboat, who, acting on his own responsibility, in the absence of a superior to appeal to, refused succour to a British merchantman in distress receive no reprimand, or would his officers complain of being told that they had no valid reason for complaint because the officer was the best judge of his own action? How not fit

FREDERICK RICHARDS's high position and great influence saved him from the rap over the knuckles so well merited?

No unprejudiced person, we venture to say, would have upbraided the Admiral in the course pursued on this occasion. The facts are no doubt still fresh in the recollection of most readers, but it may be well to briefly restate them. The Scottish Oriental Steamship Company's steamer *Somelch Phra Nang* left Java with a cargo of sugar for Hongkong on the 16th December, 1891, and was sighted on the 22nd idem by the steamer *Hongkong* a few miles north of Cabra Island at the entrance of the Gulf of Manila, since which date nothing has been seen or heard of her. The agent of the Scottish Oriental S.S. Co. in Hongkong addressed a memorandum to the Commodore on the 11th January that a gunboat might be despatched in quest of the missing vessel, as he thought she might have been driven by the terrible weather prevailing on the Scarborough Shoal or have anchored in one of the bays on the coast of Luzon for shelter and be short of coal and provisions. The Commodore referred the matter to the Admiral, who in the course of notes expressed the opinion that the search requested was more properly one to be instituted by the Company's vessels engaged on the same track in the Java trade. Subsequently, when the Chamber of Commerce took up the matter, Admiral RICHARDS condescended to explain that in his opinion such search would be fruitless, unless at the great island of Luzon is the principal island in the Philippine group, with telegraphic communication throughout its length and a large coasting trade, making it unreasonable to suppose that a British steamer could be in any of its bays or wrecks upon its coast for two days without the fact being known to the British Consul in Manila. Sir FREDERICK RICHARDS was called in to see the Commodore to undertake it? Surely if he believed what he afterwards pleaded, it would have been his pleasure and his duty, as a guardian over the British mercantile marine, to have expressed these doubts, or asked for further information. But the truth is he was not interested in the case, and did not care to take any trouble in connection with it. Apart from this he was not well posted in his information. The constabulary of Luzon is not by any means all connected by telegraph, and there are several bays in southern Luzon in which a steamer could lie almost unseen and unnoticed for some days. Mr. HOPKINS is a master mariner himself and knew what he was about when he suggested that the *Somelch Phra Nang* might have been driven to seek shelter in one of these bays. The Admiral's next plea that the Company should have undertaken the search for themselves, though ungracious, might have had some basis of reason had the Company been running a regular line to Java or have had a spare vessel. Such was not the case, however, and there were disengaged men-of-war in port, hence the reasonable nature of the Company's request.

Even, however, admitting that the balance of probability was against finding the steamer, there was a strong chance of discovering survivors in boats, either near Cabra Island or on some part of the numerous islands standing those waters. Who knows that the boats of the *Somelch* were not drifting about for weeks in dire distress, their occupants perishing at length from sheer inability to hold out longer? If the captain and crew ever did put off from the ill-fated ship they have never been heard of, but who can say that they might not have been discovered had a search for them been instituted when first suggested? The inaction of Admiral RICHARDS in this instance was more pointed soon after by the prompt despatch of a cruiser from Hongkong when intelligence reached it on the 8th January of the foaming of the steamer *Nancho* near Swatow. There was then far less chance apparently of her being able to give timely succour, for the news was despatched at least that the vessel had founders while a heavy sea was running, affording little chance of those on board being still found drifting on wrecks or in boats, as the disaster occurred not many miles from the coast. Moreover in the one case there was the certainty of disaster with the faintest chance of picking up some survivors in boats, while in the other there was the possibility of discovering a steamer in distress and saving the vessel and crew. But Admiral RICHARDS relied on his own opinion, which may not unfairly, we think, be translated into caprice, and so he hastily decided that there was little likelihood of discovering the *Somelch* or even her crew, so well that it results that the steamer in the four years provided additional capital he raised. It has been keeping an eye on the scheme for covering Batavia oil to the Far East in tank vessels, which looks to saving the expense of packing as the latter lessens the chances of remunerative prices. The company intended to wait the outcome of the idea, as the cost of the scheme was not to be paid in full until the arbitration case before Mr. Hanmer. Mr. Purdon's last letter dismisses the excuse for delay raised by the *Castel*, by pointing out the arbitration proceedings had no bearing on the removal of the wreck, and that the case had been decided by the Chief Justice, and could not therefore afford any grounds for delay.

According to the *Daily Courant* of the 23rd July a severe tornado burst over the Sungai Krian Kiri estate, in Deli, which did a lot of damage. The stable and offices attached to the residence were entirely demolished, and the *Siberian* eastward was damaged, and a heavy table, with a marble top, was blown out of the verandah and was afterwards found broken into a dozen pieces. An assistant's house was partially destroyed and the Japanese and Chinese coolie sheds entirely. The stable and offices were also destroyed and the tobacco carried away by the wind. Zinc plates were seen flying through the air like sheets of paper. Further, the tobacco stall in the shop was ruined by hailstones, and the whole estate is one picture of ruin. So strong was the wind that two *Yapangs* were lifted off their legs and blown a considerable distance. That journal states that Batavian estate was also extensively damaged.

A Batavian paper says:—The company working in the *Castel* in *Deli* has done so well that it is entitled to a large sum of additional capital to be raised. It has been keeping an eye on the scheme for covering Batavia oil to the Far East in tank vessels, which looks to saving the expense of packing as the latter lessens the chances of remunerative prices. The company intended to wait the outcome of the idea, as the cost of the scheme was not to be paid in full until the arbitration case before Mr. Hanmer. The latter also needs to be paid off from the arbitration case before Mr. Hanmer. Mr. Purdon's last letter dismisses the excuse for delay raised by the *Castel*, by pointing out the arbitration proceedings had no bearing on the removal of the wreck, and that the case had been decided by the Chief Justice, and could not therefore afford any grounds for delay.

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of 173, is classed A1 at Lloyd's, and once accomplished the voyage from the Cocos to England, and, as added to this, she was built under Mr. Ross's supervision at Cocos. Mr. Ross was particularly fond of her. Neither the J. C. Ross nor the varied crew, has had a hard time since. A peculiar feature in the affair is that though the *Luigi Rossi* was a ship of 700 or 1,000 tons and had a valuable cargo, those interested have been unable to discover her agents in the East, or her owners in Italy.—*Streets Times*.

THE GERMAN MAIL

The N. D. L. steamer *Odenburg*, with the German mail, arrived here yesterday afternoon. The appended telegrams are taken from Ceylon and Indian papers.

THE GENERAL ELECTIONS.

London, 29th July.—The following candidates have been elected: Conservative—Captain W. Sibbald for Derbyshire (High Peak); Unionists—Sir H. M. Thompson for Stockport (Macclesfield); Major L. Darwin for St. Helens (Lathom); Liberal—Mr. John Wilson for Durham (Mid); Mr. J. T. Brunner for Cheshire (Northwich).

Anti-Parliament—Mr. J. Gilholley for Cork (West); Mr. J. Driscoll for Monaghan (South); Mr. Sexton for Kerry.

London, 31st July.—Mr. J. Mandeville, Anti-Parliament, has been elected for South Tipperary. Only the returns for Orkney now remain to be received.

The following return has been omitted:—Mr. Angus Holden, Liberal, elected for Birkdale, East Riding. When the full returns are received, it will be necessary—One is given only: for the registration, payment of members' election, and constitution of Parish Council. When these are passed, he says, a Home Rule Bill will be carried easily.

THE PARSED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT.—A meeting of upwards of a hundred Indians, residing in London, was held yesterday evening at the residence of Mr. Ch. M. Narayan, the president. A resolution was unanimously passed expressing heartfelt pleasure at the election of Dadabhai Naoroji, who commands the confidence of all classes in India, and whose election is proof of England's confidence in her Indian subjects.

THE DAILY RULE AND THE LIBERAL PROGRAMME.—The *Daily News* says that Home Rule remains the chief program of the Liberals, but it is possible that it may be necessary to combine urgent Liberal measures therewith.

INDIAN VOLUNTEERS AT BIELET.—The members of the Indian Volunteer Corps competing in the Bielet contests have not been placed in any of the leading contests.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK.—London, 31st July.

A meeting of the creditors of the Oriental Bank was held yesterday, at which the liquidator stated that the creditors' claims are likely to amount to four and a half million sterling.

The assets consist of one and a half million cash, which comes in from India, and one million and a half which will take time to realize.

The creditors, he said, would receive at the utmost fifteen shillings in the pound.

THE BULGARIAN PLOTE.—Sofia, 26th July.

The trial of M. Karaveloff, formerly Minister and Agent of Dr. Michel ex-Cabinet Minister, and other officers, in the conspiracy in the murder of M. Battenhoff, and with having laid a plot to murder Prince Ferdinand and M. Stambouloff, was concluded to-day and resulted in four of the prisoners being sentenced to death, six being acquitted, and eight, including M. Karaveloff, being sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

PROTESTS.—St. Petersburg, 19th July.

In consequence of plots that have taken place at Astrakhan, Saratoff and Chavatik, in which a frenzied mob sacked the cholera hospitals and murdered the doctors, a proclamation has been issued stating that benefactors the rioters will be tried by court-martial. The plague has appeared at Kherson.

LODONG.—London, 31st July.

There are reasons to believe that the riots at Astrakhan, Saratoff and elsewhere in Russia were instigated by political agitators.

RUSSIAN CROPS.—St. Petersburg, 19th July.

The latest reports of the grain crops state that the harvests are improving.

INDIAN CURRENCY ASSOCIATION.—Simla, 19th July.

It is believed that the Indian currency moral will have been signed by ten thousand persons at the end of the month.

THE SULTAN OF MOROCCO AND HIS EQUITY.—Smith.

LONDON, 10th July.

Advices from Tangier state that the Sultan of Morocco at the last moment refused to sign the treaty drawn up by Sir Evan Smith, which was purely of a commercial nature, placing foreign nations on an equal footing in the Sultan's dominions. The Sultan then offered Sir Evan £30,000 to accept a fresh treaty, and Sir Evan, thereupon, broke off negotiations, and quitted Tangier on the 12th instant.

LONDON, 22nd July.

Particulars of the late incident at Faxt state that, after the treaty drawn up by Sir Evan Smith had been settled, the Sultan's at Sir Evan Smith, who was purely of a commercial nature, placing foreign nations on an equal footing in the Sultan's dominions. The Sultan then offered Sir Evan £30,000 to accept a fresh treaty, and Sir Evan, thereupon, broke off negotiations, and quitted Tangier on the 12th instant.

THE AFGHAN FRONTIER.—Allahabad, 21st July.

The Amir of Kabul has replaced the general left sent by the Government, respecting the frontier. His Excellency says, he will not attack the country unless provoked, but, through the blame of the recent collision on Umar Khan. He seems in a better mind to discuss reasonably a settlement of the frontier about Asmar in the negotiation with the Government of India.

The continued presence of Afghan troops at Asmar may provoke fresh fighting, though the Amir is not forced to do so.

It is important that a distinct agreement should be come to by negotiation with the Amir to the exact limit of his authority in the Kunar Valley.

DEAFNESS ABSOLUTELY CURED.—A Gentleman who cured himself of Deafness and Noises in the Head of 14 years' standing by a new method will be pleased to send full particulars. Address: H. H. C. Clarke, Shepherd's Bush, London, E. S. Eng.

REPORTS.

The Chinese steamer *Tsung-han*, from Shanghai 20th July, and Swatow 3rd Aug., had moderate to fresh monsoon with moderate S.E. swell, and fine weather throughout.

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